Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1 - 8. Please add new Claims 9 - 17. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A method for the production of hyperbranched amylopectin, comprising:

(i) degrading the molecular weight of vegetable amylopectins or amylopectin-rich starch by α-amylase or acid hydrolysis to molecular weights of less than or equal to 60 000 daltons; and

(ii) further degrading the molecular weight of the degradation product from step (i) by a β-amylase degradation,

wherein the product of step (ii) has an average molecular weight greater than or equal to 2000 daltons and less than or equal to 30 000, and

further wherein the product of step (ii) has an average degree of branching, expressed in mol% of the anhydroglucose units having branch points, of greater than 10% and less than or equal to 20%.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, in which low molecular weight impurities with an absolute molecular weight of less than 5000 daltons are removed after step (i) and/or after step (ii).

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein step (i) is an acid hydrolysis step.

12. (New) The method as claimed in any of claim 9, further including the step of coupling the hydrolysis product step (ii) to an active pharmaceutical ingredient.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the active pharmaceutical ingredient is a protein or a polypeptide.

14 (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the coupling of the hydrolysis product of step (ii) to the active pharmaceutical ingredient takes place at the terminal anhydroglucose unit of the hydrolysis product.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, further including the steps of

oxidizing the terminal reducing end group of the hydrolysis product of step (ii) to the aldonic acid;

activating the aldonic acid group to the aldonic acid ester group; and

coupling the active pharmaceutical ingredient to the activated aldonic acid group.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the coupling of the hydrolysis product of step (ii) to the active pharmaceutical ingredient takes place via a carbonic acid ester group.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, in which low molecular weight impurities with an absolute molecular weight of less than 1000 daltons are removed after step (i) and/or after step (ii).